

IOWA CHAPTER SWCS NEWSLETTER

www.iaswcs.org

May 2007

IPTV FESTIVAL 2007

The Iowa Chapter of SWCS answered phones for IPTV on March 17th, 2007. Below is an excerpt from the letter we received from Darla Hassebroek, Volunteer & Special Events Coordinator for the Iowa Public Television Foundation...

Dear Dennis,

Thank you for your personal involvement in organizing your volunteer group for FESTIVAL '07. I appreciate all the effort required at your end to make it a successful event for everyone involved. It was a pleasure to work with you.

*Thanks to your group's efforts, FESTIVAL was the most successful ever with over 1.7 million pledged! On Saturday, March 17th your group staffed the phone bank and helped take **426** pledges that raised **\$46,786!** We hope the folks in your group had a good time. We truly couldn't have attained our success without great groups like yours!*

We enjoy our partnership with your group very much and look forward to working together again. There will be a smaller pledge drive the first weekend in December. I'll be contacting your group in November to see if you'd like to participate. Thank you again for all your support of Iowa Public Television!

Thanks to everyone who participated!



They are L to R; Marlowe Brooks, Jason Hart, Rob Lawson, Jay Jung, Dora Guffey, Hilary Owen, Jaia Fisher, Rick Knutson, Ryan Gerlich, Duane Miller, Marlyce Schrod, Sarah Zimmerman, Angela Biggs, Dennis Schrod, Stacy Schlader and Alan Lange.

SWCS and Project AWARE

COME FOR A WEEK OR A
DAY!

This summer YOU can take an active part in Project AWARE. Iowa SWCS members have been asked to help with "Teachable moments on the river". Organizers of this event are looking for your expertise in soil and water conservation.

Project AWARE is a river cleanup project through the IDNR Keepers of the Land. This summer's event, June 16-23rd, marks the 5th annual cleanup. Project AWARE 2007 participants will float 100 miles in seven days on the Middle and North Raccoon rivers and remove trash through parts of Guthrie, Greene, Dallas, and Polk counties.

Project AWARE is not just about river clean up, but also offers educational experiences. Several on-stream activities will take place this year, as well as numerous evening programs; including unforgettable Native American led storytelling sessions, hoop dancing, prairie clean up, and a summer solstice celebration. You can help participants understand the dynamics between the water and land. You can highlight the techniques used to conserve Iowa's natural resources along the route. Maps have been created identifying applied conservation sites along the route.

Every participating Iowa SWCS member will don a free SWCS brimmed hat signifying them as a soil and water "expert". To coordinate this effort you will need to register with Project AWARE at www.iowaprojectaware.com AND at <http://iaswcs.org/> and go to the EVENTS tab or send an email with the below information and/or questions to gerlichr@hotmail.com.

*YOUR NAME:

*WHAT DAYS YOU'LL BE
PARTICIPATING:

*PHONE/EMAIL ADDRESS:

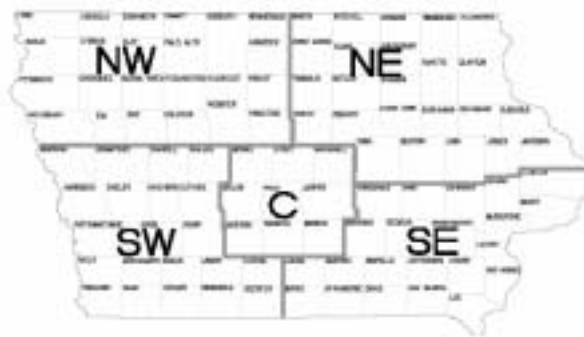


WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN SWCS? WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

If so, consider running for an office at our next annual meeting.

The following officer positions will be available at our next annual meeting!

- # President-elect
- # Secretary
- # Membership Secretary
- # Northwest Area Chair
- # Southeast Area Chair



Section 4. The President-elect shall automatically become President when the President's term expires (or the position otherwise becomes vacant). The Present-elect may appoint committee members and plan activities to become effective at the time he or she becomes President. In the absence of the President, the President-elect shall assume the responsibilities and perform the duties of the President. The President-elect serves as delegate to SWCS International Advisory Council, unless the Executive Committee appoints someone else for a specific year.

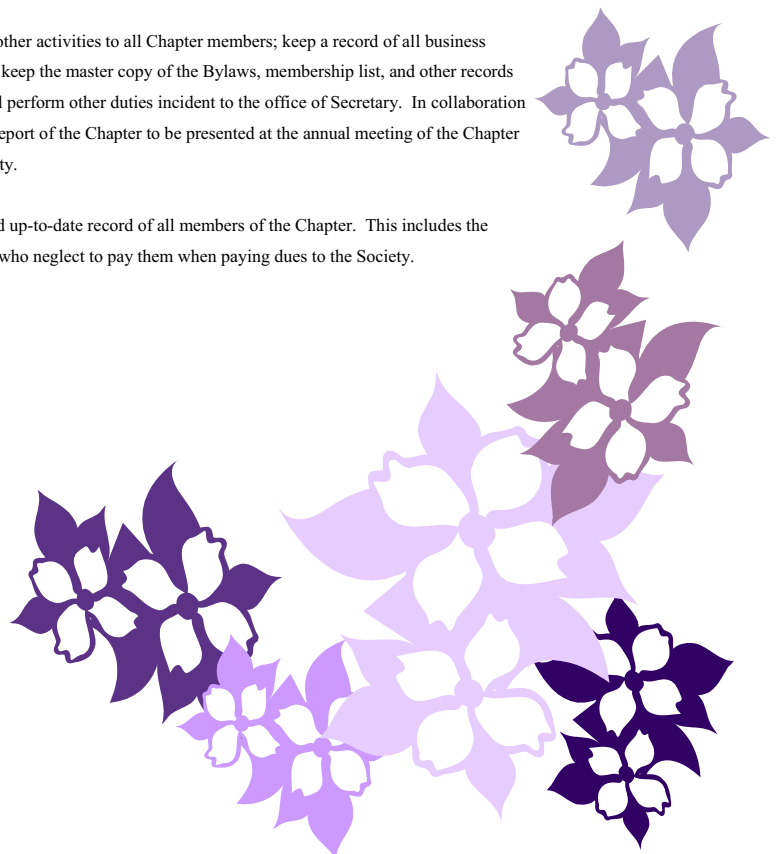
Section 5. The Secretary shall give notice of Chapter meetings and other activities to all Chapter members; keep a record of all business meetings; be responsible for all Chapter correspondence; keep the master copy of the Bylaws, membership list, and other records belonging to the Chapter or pertaining to its business; and perform other duties incident to the office of Secretary. In collaboration with the immediate Past-President, shall prepare annual report of the Chapter to be presented at the annual meeting of the Chapter and to be forwarded to the Executive Officer of the Society.

Section 7. The Membership Secretary shall maintain an accurate and up-to-date record of all members of the Chapter. This includes the responsibility for collecting the Chapter dues from those who neglect to pay them when paying dues to the Society.

If you are interested in running for an office, please contact:

Jaia Fischer
 1617 310th St
 Melbourne, IA 50162
 jaialarge@hotmail.com
 (712) 260-5080

Deadline for nominations is July 31, 2007



Award Nominations Due August 1st

Awards are a great way to reinforce the positive conservation related activities people do throughout the year. The Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will be presenting one or more *Friends of Conservation Awards* at the annual meeting to be held August 24, 2007. The Iowa Chapter has decided to consolidate award categories into the Friend of Conservation Award. Nominations should be submitted to recognize contributions and achievements in soil and water conservation for things such as:

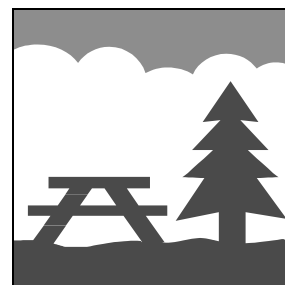
- € Media coverage
- € Grassland management
- € Natural areas management
- € Contributions to a special conservation project or demonstration
- € Achievements in water quality issues
- € Other outstanding achievements for soil and water conservation by an individual, organization, company, or community.

Go to www.iaswcs.org/conservationawards.html to download the nomination form. Submit your award nominations to either Warren Johnson or Jim Allen by August 1, 2007. Please take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to someone who has done a good job with conservation work.



ANNUAL MEETING SET

Swan Lake State Park



We will be holding the Iowa SWCS Annual Meeting on Friday, August 24th at Swan Lake Conservation Education Center - Carroll County Conservation Board Park near Carroll, Iowa. Rick Cruse, Director of the Iowa Water Center at Iowa State will present Bioeconomy Impacts on Soil & Water and Rick Tafoya will speak on current RC&D projects in the area. The business meeting, award presentation and election of board members will also take place. In the afternoon, we will tour the Tall Corn Ethanol Plant near Coon Rapids and see a virtual tour of the Renewable Energy Group - Biodiesel Plant. The evening meal and live auction will follow at the Swan Lake East Shelter. Registration and full agenda will be in the July newsletter.

Mark your calendars for this event!

2006-07 SWCS Executive Board

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| President | Kevin Kuhn | 641.743.2017 | kevin.kuhn@ia.usda.gov |
| President Elect | Robert Lawson | 563.245.1048 | robert.lawson@ia.usda.gov |
| Past President | Jim Frederick | 712.262.2083 | iglcoordinator@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Lynna Miller | 712.263.4123 | lynna.miller@ia.usda.gov |
| Treasurer | Alan Lauver | 515.323.2726 | alan.lauver@ia.usda.gov |
| Membership Chair | Angela Biggs | 712.755.2417 | angela.biggs@ia.usda.gov |
| NW Area Chair | Jaia Fischer | 712.852.3386 | jaia.fischer@ia.usda.gov |
| NE Area Chair | Lori Harris | 563.652.2337 | lori.harris@ia.usda.gov |
| SW Area Chair | Dennis Schrodt | 515.342.2917 | dennis.schrodt@ia.usda.gov |
| SE Area Chair | Amy Bouska | 319.337.2322 | amy.bouska@ia.nacdnet.net |
| Central Area Chair | Tom O'Connor | 515.323.2224 | tom.o'connor@ia.usda.gov |
| Student Chapter Chair | Jake Hartsock | 563.299.2885 | jhart@iastate.edu |

Visit NE Iowa for SWCS Summer Meeting

Northeast Iowa is hosting the summer meeting this year on June 1st, 2007 in beautiful Jackson County. We will start 9:30 a.m. at the **Maquoketa Caves State Park** at Shelter A located in the picnic area, with registration starting at 9 a.m. Throughout the morning we will be looking at geological features with Geologist, Ray Anderson, and then learn about the *Driftless Area Initiative* from David Wilson, Driftless Area Coordinator at the Badgerland RC&D. A very tasty lunch will be catered and then we will be heading to Bellevue. While there, we will board boats to take an excursion on the Mississippi. Dennis Weiss, DNR Fisheries Biologist, will be pulling nets and shocking fish. We will also be discussing water quality issues on the Mississippi and historical changes.

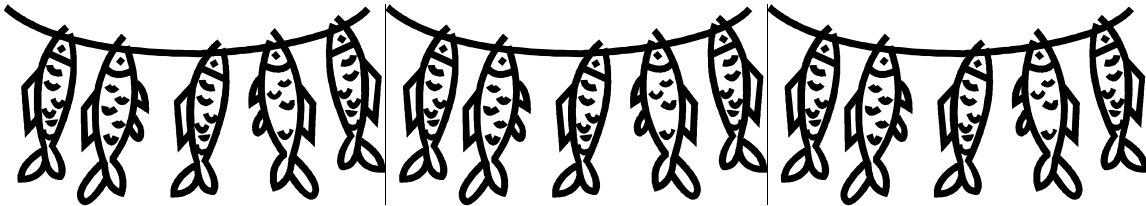
We will end the day at the **Bellevue State Park Lodge** with a fish fry and roast beef meal provided.

Overall, the focus of the day will relate to the uniqueness of NE Iowa and how that same uniqueness provides challenges and opportunities when dealing with our soil and water resources.

Don't forget to bring your fishing poles for the free fishing in Iowa weekend! There are plenty of campsites available in the area to accommodate you if you should decide to stay the weekend.

Please contact Lori Harris at 563-652-2337 if you have any questions.

The registration fee for members is \$20; please send your registrations (and payment) in by May 18th. Hope to see you there!



REGISTRATION FORM

Please send registration form & payment to *Lori Harris, 5704 Caves Rd, Maquoketa, IA 52060*. Make checks payable to Iowa SWCS.

Registration Deadline: May 18.

Registration price: Members - \$20 Non-Members - \$30 (Join SWCS and your new membership gets you \$10 off your registration fee).

Need More Information? Contact: Lori Harris at 563-652-2337 if you have questions about the day's events or local accommodations.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Will you be staying for the evening meal? ____ Yes ____ No

Number ____ x Fee ____ = Total Registration Enclosed \$ _____

RAGBRAI 2007... HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

We are hard at work lining up tent locations for RAGBRAI 2007. For the last five years, the Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and our conservation partners has hosted a tent each day from Sunday-Friday.

At the tent, we hand out free bananas and cold water. Riders also have a chance to send a NRCS conservation postcard and visit with volunteers about soil and water conservation.

We are in need of crew leaders and volunteers to help staff the tent each day. Crew leaders are responsible for helping with set-up/tear down, check-in volunteers, and coordinating the day's activities. Volunteers hand out bananas and postcards, fill coolers with water and ice, and **MOST IMPORTANTLY** talk with riders about soil and water conservation. *Check out the tentative tent locations below and let us know which site suits you best.*

We need one crew leader each day and 4-5 volunteers. Anyone that is interested is welcome to participate. Last year, we were also fortunate to have District Commissioners present at all but one of the sites.



Tentative tent locations:

- € Sunday, July 22 - Osceola County a few miles east of Ashton on A34.
- € Monday, July 23 - a couple possibilities, but it looks like we will choose one of two spots in Pocahontas County on C29, just east of Albert City. This is very near the Buena Vista/Pocahontas County line.
- € Tuesday, July 24 – likely somewhere in Wright County
- € Wednesday, July 25 – Bethel Reformed Church in Butler County
- € Thursday, July 26 - Black Hawk County found a tent site at a commissioner's place, Bob Hansen...not far from Dunkerton.

Continued next column



RAGRBAI stop along 2006 route.

- € Friday, July 27 - nothing yet, looking into the possibility of having a site at the Backbone State Park in Delaware County.

Thanks to all who have played such an active role in making RAGBRAI 2007 a success. We really appreciate your commitment to soil and water conservation!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Amy Bouska @ (319)337-2322 ext.3 or amy.bouska@ia.nacdnet.net



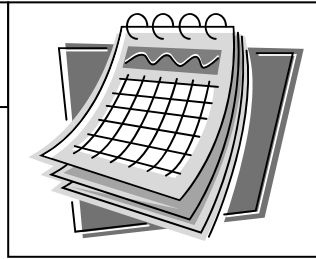
SWCS members staff the phones at the recent IPTV Festival.



Find application forms, photos and upcoming event news. Check out our updated website at

www.iaswcs.org.

Calendar of Events



Summer Meeting- June 1st in NE Iowa. See article & registration form on page #4. Contact Lori Harris for more information.

IOWATER Project AWARE- June 16-23rd on the Raccoon River. Participate in the river cleanup or help with the program. Look for more info on page #1.

Scholarship Applications- Due June 30th, 2007. Apply for one of three \$500 scholarships. Fill-able forms are available on our website at www.iaswcs.org or contact Dennis Schrodtt at 515.342.2917.

RAGBRAI- July 22-28, 2007. Look for us & our bananas along the bike route again this year. If you'd like to be part of this event, contact Amy Bouska @ 319-337-2322. See article on page #5.

National Conference- July 21-25, 2007 at Tampa, FL. Be part of SWCS in a worldly way! Grants are available from the Iowa chapter for attending. Applications can be found on our website, www.iaswcs.org.

Friend Of Conservation Awards-

Nominate a conservationist, group or individual that you see going above and beyond. Nomination forms are due August 1st, 2007 & are available on our website...see article on page #3.

Board Nominations- If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a SWCS board member contact Jaia Fischer at the numbers listed on page #2. Nominations are due July 31, 2007.

Annual Meeting/Conference- August 24th, 2007 at Swan Lake State Park, near Carroll, Iowa. See article on page #3.

West North Central Regional Conference- October 16-18, 2007. At Dubuque, Iowa.

SWCS Iowa Chapter
Lynna Miller, editor
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Manilla, IA 51454